



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

**08-23**

## **ANCHORAGE MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT TO DRUG DISTRIBUTION**

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced today, February 12, 2008, that Richie Bernardo Cuevas, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of distributing a controlled substance.

Cuevas, age 25, pleaded guilty to distributing cocaine base, or “crack,” before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White advised the court that on November 16, 2006, the defendant sold 5.9 grams of crack cocaine to a government informant.

Judge Burgess announced that sentencing will take place on April 11, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 5 to 40 years in prison, a fine of 2 million dollars, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The court ordered Cuevas to remain in custody pending sentencing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney’s Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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